

What is claimed is:

1. A device, comprising:
  - 2 a fan configured to run at a variable speed; and
  - 4 a converter electrically coupled to said fan in such a way as to control a speed of said fan, wherein said converter receives an altitude and outputs a fan speed control signal calculated from said altitude to said fan.
- 6
2. The device of claim 1, wherein said converter uses an arithmetic algorithm to calculate said fan speed control signal from said altitude.
- 2
3. The device of claim 1, wherein said converter uses a look up table to calculate said fan speed control signal from said altitude.
- 2
4. The device of claim 1, wherein said fan speed is controlled by said converter using a digital signal.
- 2
5. The device of claim 1, wherein said fan speed is controlled by said converter using an analog signal.
- 2
6. A device, comprising:
  - 2 a fan configured to run at a variable speed;
  - 4 a fan speed detector, outputting a fan speed;
  - 4 a converter, electrically coupled with said fan speed detector, wherein said converter receives said fan speed and an altitude and outputs a fan speed control signal calculated from said fan speed and said altitude to said fan.
- 6

7. The device of claim 6, wherein said converter uses an arithmetic algorithm to  
2 convert said fan speed and said altitude to said fan speed control signal.
8. The device of claim 6, wherein said converter uses a look up table to convert said  
2 fan speed and said altitude to said fan speed control signal.
9. The device of claim 6, wherein said fan speed control signal is output by said  
2 converter as an analog signal.
10. The device of claim 6, wherein said fan speed control signal is output by said  
2 converter as an analog signal.
11. A method for the setting of a fan speed, comprising the steps of:
  - 2 a) characterizing a thermal margin of a heat-generating device with respect to a  
fan speed;
  - 4 b) receiving an altitude;
  - 6 c) converting said altitude into a required fan speed; and
  - d) setting a fan to said required fan speed.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein said converting step is performed using an  
2 arithmetic algorithm.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein said converting step is performed using a look  
2 up table.

14. A method for the setting of a fan speed, comprising the steps of:

2       a) characterizing a thermal margin of a heat-generating device with respect to a  
          fan speed;

4       b) receiving an altitude;

6       c) measuring a fan speed;

8       d) converting said fan speed and said altitude into a required fan speed; and

10      e) setting a fan to said required fan speed.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said measuring a fan speed step is performed by  
2            said fan.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein said measuring a fan speed step is performed by  
2            an optoelectronic device.

17. A device, comprising:

2       means for receiving an altitude; and

4       means for calculating a thermal margin of a heat-generating device from said  
          altitude; and

6       means for setting a fan speed corresponding to a desired thermal margin.

18. The device of claim 16, further comprising:

2       means for characterizing said thermal margin of a heat-generating device with  
          respect to a fan speed.